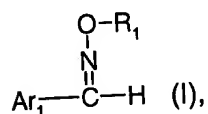


IN THE CLAIMS

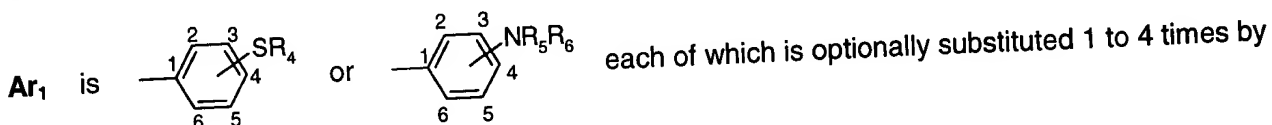
Kindly amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended): A compound of the formula I



wherein

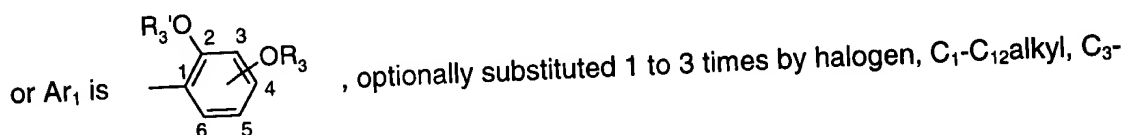
R_1 is C_4 - C_9 cycloalkanoyl, or C_1 - C_{12} alkanoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen, phenyl or CN; or R_1 is C_4 - C_6 alkenoyl, provided that the double bond is not conjugated with the carbonyl group; or R_1 is benzoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C_1 - C_6 alkyl, halogen, CN, OR_3 , SR_4 or NR_5R_6 ; or R_1 is C_2 - C_6 alkoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl; or phenoxycarbonyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C_1 - C_6 alkyl or halogen;



halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, benzyl, OR_3 , SR_4 , SOR_4 , SO_2R_4 or NR_5R_6 , wherein the substituents OR_3 , SR_4 or NR_5R_6 optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings via the radicals R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and/or R_6 with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;

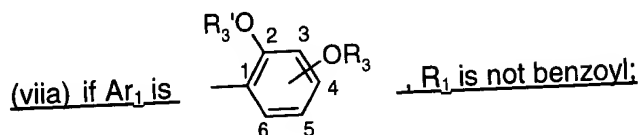
provided that

- (ia) if SR_4 is phenylthio, R_1 is not 4-Cl-benzoyl;
- (i) if SR_4 is 2- $\text{SC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$, R_1 is not benzoyl;
- (ii) if SR_4 is 2- SCH_3 or 4- SCH_3 , R_1 is not 2-iodobenzoyl or 4-methoxybenzoyl;
- (iii) NR_5R_6 is not 4- $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ or 2-NHCO-phenyl;
- (iv) if NR_5R_6 is 2- NH_2 , 2-NHCOCH $_3$, 4-NHCOCH $_3$, 2-NHCOOCH $_3$, R_1 is not acetyl;
- (v) if NR_5R_6 is 4-NHCO-phenyl, R_1 is not benzoyl; and
- (vi) if NR_5R_6 is 4- $\text{N}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3)_2$, R_1 is not 3,5-bis(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4-hydroxybenzoyl;



C_8 cycloalkyl, benzyl, OR_3 , SOR_4 or SO_2R_4 , wherein the substituents OR_3 and/or OR_3' optionally form a

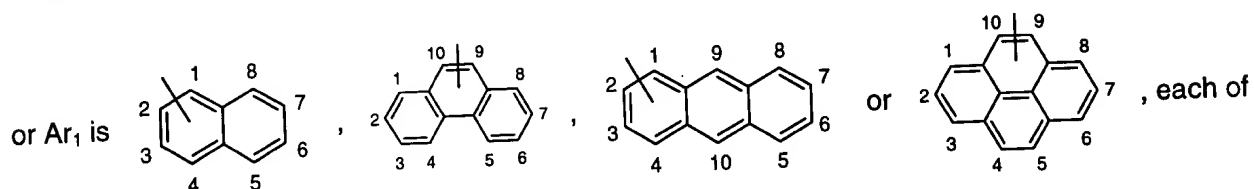
6-membered ring *via* the radicals R_3 and/or R_3' with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;
provided that



(vii) if Ar_1 is 2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,3-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 2,3,4-trimethoxyphenyl, 2,4-dihexoxyphenyl, R_1 is not acetyl or benzoyl or 4-CN benzoyl;

(viii) if Ar_1 is 3,5-dibromo-2,4-dimethoxyphenyl, R_1 is not chloroacetyl; and

(ix) if Ar_1 is 2,5-dimethoxyphenyl, 2-acetoxy-3-methoxyphenyl, 2,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl, 2,6-diacetoxy-4-methylphenyl or 2,6-diacetoxy-4-acetoxymethylphenyl, R_1 is not acetyl;



which is unsubstituted or substituted 1 to 9 times by halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl; or each of which is substituted by phenyl or by phenyl which is substituted by one or more OR_3 , SR_4 or NR_5R_6 ; or each of which is substituted by benzyl, benzoyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkanoyl; C_2 - C_{12} alkoxycarbonyl optionally interrupted by one or more -O- and/or optionally substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups; or each of which is substituted by phenoxycarbonyl, OR_3 , SR_4 , SOR_4 , SO_2R_4 or NR_5R_6 , wherein the substituents OR_3 , SR_4 or NR_5R_6 optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and/or R_6 with further substituents on the fused aromatic ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the fused aromatic ring;

provided that

(x) Ar_1 is not 1-naphthyl, 2-naphthyl, 2-methoxy-1-naphthyl, 4-methoxy-1-naphthyl, 2-hydroxy-1-naphthyl, 4-hydroxy-1-naphthyl, 1,4-diacetoxy-2-naphthyl, 1,4,5,8-tetramethoxy-2-naphthyl, 9-phenanthryl, 9-anthryl, 2-benzyloxy-1-naphthyl, 2-hexadecyloxy-1-naphthyl; and

(xi) if Ar_1 is 10-(4-chlorophenylthio)-9-anthryl, R_1 is not pivaloyl;

or Ar_1 is benzoyl, naphthalenecarbonyl, phenanthrenecarbonyl, anthracenecarbonyl or pyrenecarbonyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted 1 to 9 times by halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, phenyl, phenyl which is substituted by one or more OR_3 , SR_4 or NR_5R_6 ; or each of which is substituted by benzyl, benzoyl, C_2 - C_{12} alkanoyl; C_2 - C_{12} alkoxycarbonyl optionally interrupted by one

or more -O- and/or optionally substituted by one or more hydroxyl groups, phenoxycarbonyl, OR₃, SR₄, SOR₄, SO₂R₄ or NR₅R₆, wherein the substituents OR₃, SR₄ and NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals R₃, R₄, R₅ and/or R₆ with further substituents on the fused aromatic ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the fused aromatic ring;

provided that

(xii) if Ar₁ is benzoyl, R₁ is not acetyl, benzoyl nor 4-methylbenzoyl;

(xiii) if Ar₁ is 4-benzoyloxybenzoyl or 4-chloromethylbenzoyl, R₁ is not benzoyl;

(xiv) if Ar₁ is 4-methylbenzoyl, 4-bromobenzoyl or 2,4-dimethylbenzoyl, R₁ is not acetyl;

or Ar₁ is 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl, or phenoxyphenyl;

or Ar₁ is biphenyl, optionally substituted 1 to 9 times by halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₄-C₉-cycloalkanoyl, -(CO)OR₃, -(CO)NR₅R₆, -(CO)R₈, OR₃, SR₄ and/or NR₅R₆ wherein the substituents C₁-C₁₂alkyl, R₃, -(CO)R₈, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals C₁-C₁₂alkyl, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₈ and/or R₆ with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;

provided that

(xv) if Ar₁ is 2-biphenyl, R₁ is not benzoyl;

R₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₂₀alkyl; or R₃ is C₂-C₈alkyl which is substituted by -OH, -SH, -CN, C₃-C₆alkenoxy, -OCH₂CH₂CN, -OCH₂CH₂(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl), -O(CO)-C₁-C₄alkyl, -O(CO)-phenyl, -(CO)OH or -(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl); or R₃ is C₂-C₁₂alkyl which is interrupted by one or more -O-; or R₃ is -(CH₂CH₂O)_{n+1}H, -(CH₂CH₂O)_n(CO)-C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkanoyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl, C₃-C₆alkenoyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; or R₃ is benzoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C₁-C₆alkyl, halogen, -OH or C₁-C₄alkoxy; or R₃ is phenyl or naphthyl each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -OH, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, or -(CO)R₇; or R₃ is phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl, or Si(C₁-C₆alkyl)_r(phenyl)_{3-r};

n is 1-20;

r is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

R₃' is C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₂-C₈alkyl which is substituted by -OH, -SH, -CN, C₃-C₆alkenoxy, -OCH₂CH₂CN, -OCH₂CH₂(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl), -O(CO)-C₁-C₄alkyl, -O(CO)-phenyl, -(CO)OH or -(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl); or R₃' is C₂-C₁₂alkyl which is interrupted by one or more -O-; or R₃' is -(CH₂CH₂O)_{n+1}H, -(CH₂CH₂O)_n(CO)-C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkanoyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl, C₃-C₆alkenoyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; or R₃' is benzoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C₁-C₆alkyl, halogen, -OH or C₁-C₄alkoxy; or R₃' is phenyl or naphthyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, -OH, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, or -(CO)R₇; or R₃ is phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl, or Si(C₁-C₆alkyl)_r(phenyl)_{3-r};

R₄ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀alkyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl; C₂-C₈alkyl which is substituted by -OH, -SH, -CN, C₃-C₆alkenoxy, -OCH₂CH₂CN, -OCH₂CH₂(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl), -O(CO)-C₁-C₄alkyl, -O(CO)-phenyl, -(CO)OH or -(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl); or **R₄** is C₂-C₁₂alkyl which is interrupted by one or more -O- or -S-; or **R₄** is -(CH₂CH₂O)_{n+1}H, -(CH₂CH₂O)_n(CO)-C₁-C₈alkyl, C₂-C₈alkanoyl, benzoyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl, C₃-C₆alkenoyl; or **R₄** is phenyl or naphthyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyloxy, phenoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylsulfanyl, phenylsulfanyl, -N(C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂, diphenylamino, -(CO)R₇, -(CO)OR₇ or (CO)N(R₇)₂;

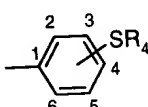
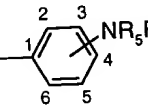
R₅ and **R₆** independently of each other are hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀alkyl, C₂-C₄hydroxyalkyl, C₂-C₁₀-alkoxyalkyl, C₃-C₅alkenyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl, C₂-C₈alkanoyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenoyl, benzoyl; or **R₅** and **R₆** are phenyl or naphthyl each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy or -(CO)R₇; or **R₅** and **R₆** together are C₂-C₆alkylene optionally interrupted by -O- or -NR₃- and/or optionally substituted by hydroxyl, C₁-C₄alkoxy, C₂-C₄alkanoyloxy or benzoyloxy; and

R₇ is hydrogen, C₁-C₂₀alkyl; C₂-C₈alkyl which is substituted by halogen, phenyl, -OH, -SH, -CN, C₃-C₆alkenoxy, -OCH₂CH₂CN, -OCH₂CH₂(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl), -O(CO)-C₁-C₄alkyl, -O(CO)-phenyl, -(CO)OH or -(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl); or **R₇** is C₂-C₁₂alkyl which is interrupted by one or more -O-; or **R₇** is -(CH₂CH₂O)_{n+1}H, -(CH₂CH₂O)_n(CO)-C₁-C₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl; or is phenyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen, -OH, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, phenoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylsulfanyl, phenylsulfanyl, -N(C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂ or diphenylamino;

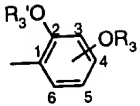
R₈ is C₁-C₁₂alkyl optionally substituted by one or more halogen, phenyl, CN, -OH, -SH, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, -(CO)OH or -(CO)O(C₁-C₄alkyl); or **R₈** is C₃-C₆alkenyl; or phenyl optionally substituted by one or more C₁-C₆alkyl, halogen, CN, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆.

2. (previously presented): A compound of the formula I according to the claim 1, wherein

R₁ is C₂-C₆alkoxycarbonyl or benzyloxycarbonyl; C₁-C₁₂alkanoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen or phenyl; or **R₁** is C₄-C₆alkenoyl, provided that the double bond is not conjugated with the carbonyl group; or **R₁** is benzoyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more C₁-C₆alkyl or halogen;

Ar₁ is  or , each of which optionally substituted 1 to 4 times by

halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆, wherein the substituents OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings via the radicals R₃, R₄, R₅ and/or R₆ with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;

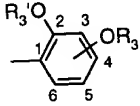
or Ar₁ is , optionally substituted 1 to 3 times by halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃, wherein the

substituents OR₃ and/or OR₃' optionally form a 6-membered ring *via* the radicals R₃ and/or R₃' with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;
 or Ar₁ is naphthyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted 1 to 7 times by halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆, wherein the substituents OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals R₃, R₄, R₅ and/or R₆ with further substituents on the fused aromatic ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the naphthyl ring;
 or Ar₁ is biphenyl, optionally substituted 1 to 9 times by halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkyl, -(CO)R₈, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ wherein the substituents C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals C₁-C₁₂alkyl, R₃, R₄, R₅ and/or R₆ with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring.

3. (previously presented): A compound of the formula I according to claim 1, wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkanoyl, benzoyl or C₂-C₆alkoxycarbonyl;

Ar₁ is R₄S-phenyl or NR₅R₆-phenyl, each of which is optionally substituted by C₁-C₈alkyl, OR₃, or

SR₄; or Ar₁ is , optionally substituted by OR₃; or Ar₁ is 1-naphthyl or 2-naphthyl each of

which optionally is substituted by OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆; or Ar₁ is 3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl, or phenoxyphenyl; or Ar₁ is biphenyl, optionally substituted by C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃ and/or NR₅R₆ wherein the substituents C₁-C₁₂alkyl, OR₃, SR₄ or NR₅R₆ optionally form 5- or 6-membered rings *via* the radicals C₁-C₁₂alkyl, R₃, R₄, R₅, and/or R₆ with further substituents on the phenyl ring or with one of the carbon atoms of the phenyl ring;

R₃ is C₁-C₈alkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl;

R₃' is C₁-C₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₂alkenyl or phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl;

R₄ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl, benzoyl; or is phenyl or naphthyl, both of which are unsubstituted or substituted by C₁-C₁₂alkyl, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyloxy, -(CO)R₇ or -(CO)OR₇;

R₅ and R₆ independently of each other are hydrogen, phenyl-C₁-C₃alkyl, C₂-C₈alkanoyl, or phenyl;

R₇ is C₁-C₂₀alkyl or phenyl;

R₈ is phenyl optionally substituted by OR₃.

4-17. (cancelled).